

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED **RESTRICTED**
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

STAT

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Military - Atomic warfare
 HOW PUBLISHED Semimonthly periodical
 WHERE PUBLISHED Oslo
 DATE PUBLISHED 25 May 1951
 LANGUAGE Norwegian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951
 DATE DISC. 23 Jul 1951
 NO. OF PAGES 3
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 80 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Militaer Orientering, Vol 7, No 10, 1951.

THE ATOMIC BOMB POTENTIAL OF THE USSR

It is estimated that the USSR produces two atomic bombs per month, and that it entered the new year with a stockpile of 22 atomic bombs. With this capacity, by the end of 1951 the USSR should have 46 atomic bombs. This is sufficient to cause frightful destruction over great areas, but it is not sufficient to deliver a decisive blow and to win a war.

If this information is correct, there is no reason to fear a world war this year. What then are Moscow's possibilities for producing many atomic bombs?

The USSR began its efforts to master the technology of atomic bomb production in the summer of 1946. At that time, Beriya, chief of the Soviet secret police and the internal security organization, suddenly disappeared. A few months later it became known that, on Stalin's orders, he was engaged in organizing an immense apparatus for the production of the atomic bomb.

A chain of large research centers was established in Central Siberia, the Caucasus, and Georgia. German nuclear physicists were brought in from Soviet Zone Germany and were put to work at these centers.

First Experimental Explosion in 1947

In June 1947, the USSR, for the first time, tested an atomic bomb in an isolated part of Siberia approximately 75 kilometers from Lake Baikal. This was only a small experiment. The explosion was noted within a radius of about 30 kilometers, but it could not be registered by observatories outside the USSR.

Two years went by before the USSR exploded the first real atomic bomb. The explosion was observed immediately, and the news was made public in the US in September 1949. It was known that the USSR's first real atomic explosion took place on land and not under water. This explosion was a little less powerful than the first atomic explosion in the US.

RESTRICTED

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION		RESTRICTED		DISTRIBUTION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB											
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI											

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

STAT

Since September 1949, no other explosions in the USSR have been noted. This had led to speculations that the USSR really has the atomic bomb [sic]. Gordon Dean, of the US Atomic Energy Commission, stated very positively at a press conference in Washington that the USSR does have the atomic bomb.

In addition to the USSR's first atomic bomb plant in Tannu Tuva (the Soviet Atomgrad, built in the wasteland areas between Siberia and Mongolia), there are also three other main installations in the USSR: one in the vicinity of Tashkent between Lake Aral and the Afghanistan border, one in the vicinity of Chelyabinsk, west of Tobolsk, and one near the Black Sea, at Sukhumi in the Caucasus.

As Large as Oak Ridge

It is estimated that the research station near Sukhumi is as large as the US atomic city, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A large force of secret police and soldiers prevent unauthorized persons from entering or leaving the area, and thousands of peasants have been evacuated from this region.

The USSR also has a research site under construction in the Urals, and it is expected that it will be in operation in early 1952. It will be much larger than any of the four previously mentioned, and it is believed that these new research stations will increase the USSR's atomic bomb production to ten bombs per month as of January 1952.

By the end of 1952 the Soviets will have 160 atomic bombs. If one takes into consideration the sources of uranium and the possibilities available for the production of atomic bombs behind the Iron Curtain, the USSR's stockpile assuredly will be 300 bombs by the end of 1953. If these bombs can be delivered to their targets, the Soviets will be in a position to destroy the armament industries in the US and Western Europe. Fortunately, no atomic bomb will be of tactical value unless it is delivered to the right spot and exploded at the right time.

By Merchant Ship or Submarine

The Soviet General Staff may perhaps attempt to ship the atomic bomb by merchant vessel and explode it in port cities around the world. It may attempt to detonate an atomic bomb simultaneously in all important British and US ports, something which would render these useless for many months. For a while Anglo-American troops and military supplies could be sent to the areas of operation only by air.

This, however, cannot prevent the US from reprisal raids. The USSR and the Satellites could be paralyzed by atomic bombs which would reduce their industrial centers to piles of ruins.

The Soviets would be acting rather foolishly if they attempted to transport atomic bombs to Western ports by hiding them in ships. The Western authorities are already on guard. The pilots guiding foreign vessels into port are provided with Geiger instruments which will reveal the presence of radioactive elements in the ship's cargo.

The Russians may attempt to send bombs by robot craft, launched, for example, from submarines. It is estimated, however, that the USSR neither has nor is likely to have in the near future either robots capable of being launched for this purpose or robots possessing the degree of accuracy necessary. Moreover, they do not possess submarines large enough to serve as launching bases for remote-control rockets.

RESTRICTED

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTEDRESTRICTED

STAT

It is clear that the Soviets have worked very energetically on the V-type rockets developed by the Germans. If they can provide the V-weapons with atomic charges or with some degree of accuracy, then they can cause enormous destruction in Europe and also in the US. But the experts working in the USSR do not appear to be prepared to solve the complicated problems involved in the construction of "atomic V-bombs," and years may go by before they are in a position to solve them.

Not Enough Bombers

This leaves only the orthodox method of bombing. At the end of World War II, the USSR had no strategic air force, but in the postwar period they have considered important and have been working on the procurement of heavy bomber aircraft, particularly a copy of the B-29. At present they have about 300 such aircraft.

The Soviet Air Force has 44 air bases in Eastern Siberia quite close to Alaska. There are 15 runways large enough to accommodate four-engine bombers.

However, a strategic bomber force of 300 aircraft is insufficient to deliver a decisive and surprising attack on both Western Europe and the US. The relatively slow Soviet bombers would be shot down long before the main force could reach its objectives.

The Soviet Air Force, of course, will grow gradually, but so, too, will the US and European air forces. To the same extent will grow the US' possibilities for launching reprisal attacks with atomic bombs -- uranium, plutonium, or hydrogen bombs.

It is obviously difficult to get an idea of the thoughts of the Soviet General Staff on these matters. It may be that they will not wait until the Soviet Air Force and the stock of atomic bombs are large enough to deliver a decisive blow against both the US and Europe. It may be that they believe that it would suffice to destroy the US armament industry, after which Western Europe would be forced to surrender.

It may also be that they believe a surprise attack could succeed as soon as the USSR has a stock of 100 atomic bombs. This they will have in July 1952.

- E N D -

RESTRICTED

- 3 -

RESTRICTED